



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

[Document Identifier: HHS-OS-19129-60D]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Public Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, HHS

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: In compliance with section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Secretary (OS), Department of Health and Human Services, announces plans to submit a new Information Collection Request (ICR), described below, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Prior to submitting the ICR to OMB, OS seeks comments from the public regarding the burden estimate, below, or any other aspect of the ICR.

DATES: Comments on the ICR must be received on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments to Information.CollectionClearance@hhs.gov or by calling (202) 690-6162.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Information Collection Clearance staff, Information.CollectionClearance@hhs.gov or (202) 690-6162.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: When submitting comments or requesting information, please include the document identifier HHS-OS-19129-60D for reference.

Information Collection Request Title: HIPAA Audit Review Survey

Abstract: This information collection consists of an online survey of 115 covered entities (health plans, health care clearinghouses, and health care providers) that were audited in 2012 through the Office for Civil Rights HIPAA Audit Program. The survey will gather information on the effect of the audits on the audited entities and the entities' opinions about the audit process.

Need and Proposed Use of the Information: The Office for Civil Rights is currently conducting a review of the HIPAA Audit program to determine its efficacy in assessing the HIPAA compliance efforts of covered entities. As part of that review, the online survey will be used to:

- measure the effect of the HIPAA Audit program on covered entities;
- gauge their attitudes towards the audit overall and in regards to major audit program features, such as the document request, communications received, the on-site visit, the audit-report findings and recommendations;
- obtain estimates of costs incurred by covered entities, in time and money, spent responding to audit-related requests;
- seek feedback on the effect of the HIPAA Audit program on the day-to-day business operations; and
- assess whether improvements in HIPAA compliance were achieved as a result of the Audit program.

The information, opinions, and comments collected using the online survey will be used to produce recommendations for improving the HIPAA Audit program.

Likely Respondents: The 115 audit points-of-contact for each covered entity audited as part of the 2012 HIPAA Compliance Audit Program.

Burden Statement: Burden in this context means the time expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, disclose, or provide the information requested. This includes the time needed to review instructions, to develop, acquire, install and utilize technology and systems for the purpose of collecting, validating and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information, to train personnel and to be able to respond to a collection of information, to search data sources, to complete and review the

collection of information, and to transmit or otherwise disclose the information. The total annual burden hours estimated for this ICR are summarized in the table below.

Total Estimated Annualized Burden - Hours

Form Name	Number of Respondents	Number of Responses per Respondent	Average Burden per Response (in hours)	Total Burden Hours
Covered Entity	115	1	2.0	230
Total	115	1	2.0	230

OS specifically requests comments on (1) the necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions, (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden, (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

Keith A. Tucker

Information Collection Clearance Officer

[FR Doc. 2013-06281 Filed 03/18/2013 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 03/19/2013]